

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OMB-01 SY-04 SCCT-02 OPR-02

SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 CU-04

DRC-01 /133 W

----- 126425

R 301200Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2565

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

UNCLAS LUANDA 0256

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT AO

SUBJECT: LUANDA DEMONSTRATION SUPPORTS JUNTA

1. APPROXIMATELY 2000 LUANDANS (85 PERCENT MIDDLE CLASS WHITES) RESPONDED TO APPEALS CARRIED IN MEDIA BY GROUP CALLING ITSELF "MOVEMENT IN SUPPORT OF JSN" TO DEMONSTRATE APPROVAL OF LISBON COUP, BEGINNING 1830 HOURS APRIL 29. HEARD EXTEMPORANEOUS OFTEN EMOTIONAL SPEECHES BY ORDINARY CITIZENS CALLING FOR PEACEFUL MARKING OF THEIR DELIVERY FROM 48 YEARS OF FASCIST OPPRESSION. SPEECHES PUNCTUATED BY REPEATED SINGING OF NATIONAL ANTHEM AND CRIES OF LONG LIVE PORTUGAL, ANGOLA, SPINOLA, JUNTA BUT MOSTLY FREEDOM. ONE SPEECH BY INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFIED AS UNIVERSITY STUDENT DREW SOME CROWD RESPONSE (FAVORABLE). INTERALIA HE CALLED FOR RETURN OF "OUR BROTHERS ON OTHER SIDE OF BARRICADES," PRESUMABLY MEANING INSURGENTS.

2. SECGEN FLANKED BY PROVINCIAL SECRETARIES ON PALACE BALCONY ACKNOWLEDGED CROWD'S SUPPORT FOR JUNTA IN VERY BRIEF ADDRESS CARRIED TO CROWD OVER LOUDSPEAKER SYSTEM (BUT ODDLY ENOUGH NOT ON STATE RADIO).

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3. MOST OF GENERALLY PASSIVE CROWD DISPERSED BY 1900 HOURS

EXCEPT FOR FEW HUNDRED WHO MOVED ON TO PAY RESPECTS TO ACTING
CINC AT FORTRESS.

4. EVENING CALM RESTORED BY 1930 BUT PUNCTURED OCCASIONALLY BY
EXUBERANT BANDS OF YOUNG MOTORCYCLISTS CAREENING ABOUT AND
SHOUTING "FREEDOM."

5. MEETING UNDER SAME AUSPICES PLANNED FOR NIGHT OF MAY 3.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH FIRST DEMONSTRATION SHOWED SOME PLANNING
AND HAD COOPERATION OF AUTHORITIES (POLICE REROUTED TRAFFIC AWAY
FROM AREA; STATE RADIO BROADCAST SPEECHES) PARTICIPANTS WERE
THERE PRESUMABLY OUT OF CONVICTION OR AT LEAST CURIOSITY, NOT
BECAUSE TOLD TO BE AS IN PAST. WE KNOW OF NO EFFORTS TO INCITE
CROWD TO VIOLENCE; ON CONTRARY, NEED FOR CALM AND "MATURITY" WAS
KEYNOTE OF DAY. CROWD GENERALLY UNRESPONSIVE, PARTLY DUE TO FACT
MOST SPEECHES (NOTABLY EXCEPTING SECGEN'S) HARDLY AUDIBLE. ONLY
REAL ENTHUSIASM NOTED WAS AMONG MULTIRACIAL YOUNG GROUP CLOSEST
TO SPEAKERS. VIRTUALLY NO SECURITY MEASURES TAKEN, OR AT LEAST
OBSERVABLE IN AREA.
BRIGGS

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